

**THE CONSERVATION ACQUISITION BOARD
(CAB)
OF
THE ARIZONA STATE PARKS BOARD
(ASPB)
Offices of Arizona State Parks
1300 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Baier called the meeting to order at 10:07am.

Board Members Present: Maria Baier, Chair
John Graham
Christopher McNichol
Taber Anderson
Jeff Swango

(Note: The CAB is awaiting appointment of two more members.)

Board Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director
Jay Ream, Assistant Director
Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Grants
Dan Shein, Chief of Resource Management
Genevieve Johnson, Open Space Planner
Laura Burnette, GIS Coordinator
Ruth Shulman, Advisory Group Coordinator

B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

Members and Staff introduced themselves.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of minutes from October 11, 2007

Chair Baier asked for a motion. Mr. McNichol moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Swango seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

2. Consider allowing CAB members to participate in meetings and vote on agenda items telephonically.

Chair Baier opened the discussion by noting that telephonic “attendance” enhances participation levels in many state Boards and Commissions. Chair Baier also noted that the Board must authorize itself to allow telephone participation, and also noted that the Open Meeting Law continues in full force. Mr. Graham noted that members electing to participate by telephone should commit to attend the complete meeting, and listen to the presentations.

Mr. Anderson said that he would prefer not to allow telephone participation, in that it creates disruption and there can be lack of continuity and misunderstandings. Policy discussions in particular can be difficult. Ms. Pulsifer noted that visual presentations would be forwarded to members in hard-copy format before the meeting.

Following further discussion, members agreed that physical attendance is preferable however given the difficulty of setting meetings the phone should be a “fall-back” position.

Chair Baier noted that with the deadlines inherent with these particular grants, setting meetings is critical. Because of the geographic representation, members are expected to travel however travel is occasionally difficult. Approving telephonic participation should be viewed as “authorization without encouragement”.

Mr. Graham moved to allow Conservation Acquisition Board members to participate telephonically with the understanding that the members will do everything possible to appear physically, and also that members of the public and anyone who wishes to address the Board can appear telephonically. Mr. McNichol seconded. Mr. Anderson amended the motion to include that the Board Chair be allowed to control the number of telephone participants. Mr. Graham and Mr. McNichol approved the amendment. The motion carried with no further discussion.

D. PRESENTATION OF SMART GROWTH MODEL

(The bulk of information in this presentation is contained in a handout provided by Ms. Johnson.)

Genevieve Johnson began the presentation by discussing the formation of the Governor’s Smart Growth Cabinet. The Smart Growth Cabinet was formed to plan for the exponential growth explosion in Arizona. There are several other agencies and non-governmental organizations working on the effects of development on open spaces, recreation resources, and environmentally sensitive areas. ASP is part of the Smart Growth Interagency Committee, which works on developing the Smart Growth Scorecard for communities to measure their smart growth, and assists communities in completing their scorecard. A copy of the scorecard is on the website for the Department of Commerce.

The Growth Cabinet also looks at developing an inventory of resources in Arizona, such as wildlife habitat, recreation areas, sensitive species, cultural and historic resources and more.

Laura Burnette presented the visuals representing the GIS map layers developed using various criteria (such as existing and proposed recreation opportunities). Using GoogleEarth and additional information detailing recreation amenities (parking, drinking water, restrooms) the maps will be the basis for a comprehensive and consistent listing of recreational opportunities in the state. (This presentation consisted of PowerPoint slides and GoogleEarth pages with information overlays, with Ms. Burnette's comment on the visuals.)

Genevieve Johnson returned to the podium to discuss the conservation priority models, which is another use for the GoogleEarth overlays. The intention is to provide a tool for planners at all governmental levels to prioritize their conservation efforts. She emphasized that ASP is not creating new information, but rather consolidating existing information in a single, useful format.

Mr. Graham asked about where information is accessible on the web. Ms. Johnson said that the scorecard is available on the Department of Commerce website; Ms. Burnette said that her GoogleEarth maps and datasets will be available in the future, pending data-sharing agreements.

Chair Baier and the Board members thanked Ms. Burnette and Ms. Johnson for their presentation, and their hard work.

E. GRANT APPLICATION PRESENTATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Baier noted that the formation of CAB took place in 1995, with two original conservation acquisition "targets" – Tumamoc Hill and Goldie Brown (Granite) Mountain. She was gratified to see Tumamoc Hill on the agenda.

Ms. Pulsifer said that her presentation contains pictures of the properties as well as maps that arrived with the applications. ASP received two applications for this grant cycle: City of Phoenix, Sonoran Desert Preserve, and Pima County, Tumamoc Hill. Ms. Pulsifer will present general information on the applications, and allow representatives of the applicants to answer on the specifics.

Chair Baier noted that she will recuse herself from the presentation on the City of Phoenix, due to conflict of interest. She requested two separate presentations.

The total available funds for grants are \$75,276,605. No one county during a single fiscal year can receive more than 50%. This allows for a total maximum award of \$47,638,302 per county this cycle. No applicant exceeded this amount in grant

requests. The City of Phoenix is requesting \$32,193,855 for 715.419 acres of land. Pima County is requesting \$3,500,000 for 320 acres of land.

Ms. Pulsifer showed a few slides of terrain pictures as well as the map of the parcel for the Tumamoc Hill purchase. Kerry Baldwin of Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation spoke on the grant application. He noted that the protection of Tumamoc Hill has been considered critical since the 1970s, when it was named a National Historical Landmark as well as a National Environmental Education Landmark. The culture resources include both pre-historic and historic components. The Carnegie Institute Desert Laboratory from the turn of the previous century, contained biologic data plots that remain in use today. Other important elements include the biodiversity and the geomorphological features. Pima County is also planning to maintain biological linkages. Linda Mayro, Pima County Archaeological Manager, listed a number of cultural resources.

Mr. Anderson asked for clarification whether the parcel under consideration was actually part of the Hill itself, or an adjacent acreage. Mr. Baldwin said that the parcel was the 320 acres to the west of the base of the Hill. The Carnegie Desert Laboratory is located on the Hill proper, which is owned by the University of Arizona. Pima County is working with the University to protect the Hill as a whole. Mr. Baldwin also noted that Pima County has an agreement with the Star Pass resort complex to preserve the wildlife corridor in the area. Further discussion of the resources in the area followed.

Following discussion of making two separate motions to recommend the grants. Mr. McNichol moved to approve funding of \$3,500,000 to Pima County for the purchase of Tumamoc Hill. The final grant amount will be based on the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) final appraisal value of the parcel, agreed upon by the applicant, plus no more than 10% for eligible associated costs. Approval of the awards is contingent upon the appraised land value being finalized before December 31, 2008. I further move that this recommendation be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final action. Mr. Swango seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion.

Chair Baier then passed the gavel to Mr. McNichol to lead the meeting during her recusal. Ms. Pulsifer noted that the City of Phoenix applied for 715.419 acres of Priority 2B land for the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve. This will continue the acquisitions begun with last year's grant cycle. The requested grant amount is \$32,193,855. Ms. Pulsifer noted the agenda packet pages showing terrain pictures and maps. Chris Ewell of City of Phoenix Parks and Recreation said that the official appraisal is not yet available however unofficially the grant request is higher than the expected appraisal amount. Mr. Ewell discussed the location of the parcel and rights of way with the members. Mr. Anderson moved to approve funding of \$32,193,855 to the City of Phoenix for the purchase of 715.419 acres of the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve – Priority 2B. The final grant amount will be based on the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD) final appraisal value of the parcel, agreed upon by the

applicants, plus no more than 10% for eligible associated costs. Approval of the awards is contingent upon the appraised land value being finalized before December 31, 2008. I further move that this recommendation be forwarded to the Arizona State Parks Board for final action. Mr. Graham seconded the motion, which passed with 4 ayes and 1 abstention.

F. REPORTS

1. Parks Board Actions on CAB issues

Ms. Pulsifer noted that the ASP Board in October of 2007 voted to approve the recommendation to authorize the two City of Phoenix grant applications in the total amount of \$47,600,000; \$38,900,000 for Priority 1 and \$8.7 million for the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve. Both purchases are completed and closed. Ms. Pulsifer noted that today's grant applications will be forwarded to the ASP Board at their September meeting.

G. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No public comment.

H. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Graham said that the State Trust Land Reform initiative set for this year's election had the petition signatures reviewed and those petitions will be decertified. He is confident that the initiative will remain on the ballot, because there were so many more signatures collected than were necessary to place the initiative on the ballot.

I. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

To be determined. Ms. Pulsifer suggested a meeting early next spring to approve the grant manual for the next cycle.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Graham seconded the motion, which carried with no further discussion. Chair Baier adjourned the meeting at 11:57am.